

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 have been examined. With this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 12. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority and for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed on March 31, 2001.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the Formal Drawings filed on March 31, 2001, have been accepted.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 31, 2001.

II. Objection to the Title

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention for lacking description. Applicant submits that the modifications to the title obviate the objection.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Namizuka *et al.* (US 5,687,006) ["Namizuka"]. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer..

The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rhoads (US 6,343,138) ["Rhoads"]. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

IV. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Namizuka. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 and for indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are allowable.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Serial No. 09/867,599

Attorney Docket No.: Q64721

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

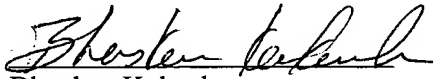
Respectfully submitted,

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